

OCTOBER 3, 2003

# TALON



**34th ID takes command**

**Inside this issue:**

**Non-lethal weapons training  
Task Force Renegade live fire**

**Task Force Eagle [www.tfeagle.army.mil](http://www.tfeagle.army.mil)**



# TALON

Published in support of  
Operation Joint Forge  
October 3, 2003  
Volume 10, No.28

**Commander,  
Multinational Brigade (N)**

Brig. Gen.  
Richard Nash

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Maj. Jarrod Krull

**Command Historian**  
Master Sgt. Tim Peterson

**Commander, 135th MPAD/  
Command Information Officer**  
Capt. Chuck Traxler

**NCOIC, 135th MPAD**  
Master Sgt.  
Edwin Holt

**Talon Editor**  
Sgt. 1st Class  
Clinton Wood

**Journalist**  
Sgt. Sarah C. Danielski  
Spc. Jeremiah Wickenhauser

**Broadcasters**  
Sgt. Kent Westberg  
Sgt. DeAnne Gilger

**Media Specialists**  
Aleksandar Ilic  
Nedima Hadziibrisevic  
Haris Lelic



The **Talon** is produced in the interest of the service members of Task Force Eagle. The **Talon** is an Army-funded magazine authorized for members of the U.S. Army overseas under the provisions of AR 360-1. Contents of the **Talon** are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Task Force Eagle. The **Talon** is published weekly by the Task Force Eagle Public Affairs Office, Eagle Base, APO AE 09789. DSN Telephone 314-762-0190. Email story ideas, and photo to: **Clinton.Wood@email-tc3.5sigcmd.army.mil**. The Task Force Eagle web address is **www.tfeagle.army.mil**. Printed by PrintComTuzla. Circulation: 3,500.

# Attack, Attack, Attack

The 34th Infantry Division was created from National Guard troops from Minnesota, Iowa, the Dakotas and Nebraska in the late summer of 1917. It arrived in France in October of 1918 but was too late to see action in World War I as the war ended the following month.

The 34th Infantry Division was activated during World War II Feb. 10, 1941. The division made a good showing at the Louisiana Maneuvers. As the first U.S. Division to be shipped overseas, Pvt. Henke of Hutchinson, Minn., was credited as being the first American soldier to step off the boat in support of the war effort.

The division participated in six major Army campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. The division is credited with amassing 517 days of continuous front line combat, more than any other division in the European theater. Portions of the 34th Division are credited with over 600 days of front line combat. The Di-

vision suffered 21,362 casualties, of which 3,737 were killed. Members of the division were awarded 11 Medals of Honor and 98 Distinguished Service Crosses.

they soon became famous as "Darby's Rangers."

The 34th Infantry Division was reorganized and redesigned as an active National Guard division Feb. 10, 1991, replacing the 47th Infantry (Viking) Division. The division and its subordinate units are actively involved in their respective states' missions to provide a ready response to natural disasters and civil disturbance. They are also involved in Division and Overseas Deployments to Europe and Central America. The division also has units deployed to the Multi-National Force and Observer mission in the Sinai and is providing security at installations throughout Europe. In early 2004, the division will deploy as part of the Kosovo Force, a NATO-led international force responsible for establishing and maintaining security in Kosovo.



**About the cover:** Brig Gen. Richard Nash (left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Rannenberg unfurl the 34th ID guidon during the MNB (N) Transfer of Authority Tuesday. By Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD.

# Taking careful aim

*Task Force South trains to respond with non-lethal force*

Story and Photos by  
Spc. Jeremiah Wickenhauser  
135th MPAD



Echoed commands and gunshots broke the morning silence and lasted into the afternoon of Sept. 10, as members of a Task Force Bearcat platoon engaged targets with non-lethal rounds from

a variety of weapons at the softball field on Eagle base.

Soldiers wearing kevlar helmets, face shields, kevlar vests, and carrying hand shields and weapons participated in a live non-lethal firing exercise.

The "hands-on" exercise was a mandatory part of the training and validation process to certify this platoon as ready to use non-lethal tactics.

For many of the younger soldiers it was



**Members of Task Force Bearcat get on line to simulate a riot control situation with full equipment.**

their first time firing these types of weapons and for others it was a chance to re-fresh old training techniques.

The soldiers fired non-lethal rounds from 12-gauge shotguns and M203 grenade launchers at plastic targets from distances ranging between 20 feet and 50 feet. The

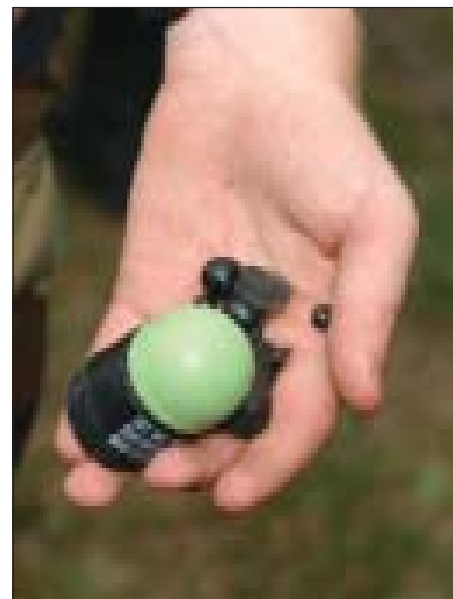
non-lethal projectiles were plastic balls of several sizes, beanbags, and foam rounds.

The training was designed to teach soldiers riot control techniques and familiarize soldiers with the non-lethal procedures and weapons available in a riot situation.

It was a good hands on experience for the soldiers.



**Soldiers from Task Force Bearcat shoot non-lethal rounds from 12 gauge shotguns.**



**The non-lethal rounds included M203 grenade launcher rounds made of foam and plastic balls of a variety of sizes.**

"I think the training was a success," said Sgt. 1st Class Greg Johnson non-commissioned officer in charge of the exercise.

Spc. Ed Yurick, a platoon member, said this exercise was helpful.

"This type of training will help out with any mission in Bosnia," he said.



# Red Bulls charge in

## 34th ID assumes command of MNB (N)



Photo by Sgt. Brian Taylor, Task Force Iron

**Task Force Iron Commander Lt. Col. Kevin Gutknecht and Command Sgt. Maj. Erick Keppeler unroll the 2nd Bn., 194th Armor guidon Sept. 15 during the IOC ceremony at Camp McGovern.**

**By Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood**  
135th MPAD

The more than 1,100 Minnesota Army National Guard soldiers, the majority from the 34th Red Bull Infantry Division, officially started their mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina Sept. 30 in a Transfer of Authority at Peacekeepers Hall on Eagle Base in BiH.

The transfer of authority included the passing of colors, a long-time Army tradition. The 34th Infantry Division took command of the northern sector of the Stabilization Force from the 35th Infantry Division (Mechanized). Brig. Gen. James R. "Ron" Mason passed both the flag and responsibility of the Multinational Brigade (North) to Brig. Gen. Richard Nash.

Mason told the audience that his soldiers completed their tasks since deploying.

"Only the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina know the fine line between peace and aggression better than these soldiers," he said. "SFOR soldiers have been sustaining that fine line now for eight years."

Mason also noted that SFOR 13 saw many changes in BiH, including the reopening of the Tuzla International Airport and the reduction of unexploded ordnance and obsolete and illegal weapons.

"May God bless this nation and all other nations who send soldiers here to build that irreversible peace."

Nash takes command of SFOR 14, the fifth time an Army Reserve or Army National Guard unit is the lead force element. This also is the third consecutive time that MNB (N) was comprised of mostly Army National Guard and Reserve soldiers.

SFOR 12 was the first rotation where the brigade was made up mostly of Army National Guard and Reserve soldiers. The 49th Armored Division from the Texas Army National Guard was the first Guard element to command MNB (N) for SFOR 7.

Nash commended the members of SFOR 13 for their work to maintain a safe and secure environment and their assistance with the transition of force.

"Red Bulls, the guidon is now ours," he said. "We have trained hard for this day and days ahead. I am confident in your abilities to carry on the tradition of success established by the previous implementation force and the stabilization forces before us."

Nash continued by saying to his soldiers that each of them have developed skills needed for their missions.

"Most importantly, you have come together to build a professional team," he said. "I now urge each of you to put these skills to work and make your best effort each day and continue to develop that team."

Lt. Gen. William Ward, commander of SFOR also attended and told the audience that he has confidence in SFOR 14.

"General Nash, you have my full trust and confidence as the new commander of MNB (N)," he said.

There are four task forces in SFOR 14. Task Force Iron is composed of soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 194th Armor headquartered in Duluth, Minn., Task Force Bearcats has soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry headquartered in Moorhead, Minn., Task Force Renegade has soldiers mostly from the Texas Army National Guard and Task Force Med Eagle which has both Army Reserve and Guard soldiers from several states.

SFOR 14's American contingent soldiers are from 29 states and two territories.

**The Red Bull insignia of the 34th Infantry Division was based on a design by an Iowan who drew it for a contest while training with the division at Camp Cody near Deming, N.M., in 1917. A steer skull imposed on the shape of a Mexican water jar recalled the division's desert home not far from the Mexican border. During World War II, German soldiers in Italy referred to the American soldiers who wore the familiar patch as "Red Devils" or "Red Bulls." The latter name stuck, and the division soon adopted it officially.**



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD

**Several soldiers from the Multinational Battle Group participated in Tuesday's transfer of authority ceremony.**



**Spc. S MNB (N) transfer**



**The 2nd their 10**



# to SFOR mission



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD  
 cholastica Simbi really concentrates on the  
 (N) flag while she holds it during the 34th ID  
 er of authority ceremony.

The background photo was taken at  
 Camp Cody, N.M. Aug. 18, 1918.



Phot by Spc. Jeremiah Wickenhauser, 135th MPAD

Above: Sgt. Benjamin Hernandez  
 (left to right) Staff Sgt. Ronald  
 Miranda, Sgt. Dennis Bush and Spc.  
 Chet Heacox were the color guard  
 during Task Force Medical Eagle's  
 IOC Sept. 22

Right: Task Force Renegade  
 Command Sgt. Maj. Jay Nidever  
 stands at attention as Spc. Daniel  
 Dobbs makes a right face with the  
 1st Bn., 149th Avn., Regt., guidon  
 during their IOC ceremony earlier  
 this month.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD



Photo by Spc. Jeremiah Wickenhauser, 135th MPAD

nd Bn., 136th Inf., of Minnesota's 34th ID took command of Task Force Bearcat at  
 OC Sept. 23



# Live fire per



**With a hiss and a flash a Task Force Renegade Apache helicopter fires a laser-guided hellfire missile towards a target at Glamac range Sept. 24.**

**Story and photos by Spc. Jeremiah Wickenhauser**

*135th MPAD*

GLAMAC – Stabilization Forces from several nations converged at Glamac Range, Sept. 22 -24, to participate in Dynamic Response 2003, a joint forces training exercise. Polish, Dutch, British, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, Netherlands, Italian and US forces participated in the multi-national live-fire exercises.

The exercise tested the communication, coordination and combat power capabilities of every nation involved. Multinational ground force troops secured specific areas of the range and provided rapid response teams capable of quickly moving into areas that required combat teams.

When ground assets were not enough to deal with the simulated situation, ground force leaders coordinated with Army and Air Force assets to bring both rotary and fixed-wing close air support. U.S. Apache helicopters fired machine guns, rockets and hellfire missiles at targets while Air Force F-16 fighter jets dropped ordnance on targets identified by ground observers.

The exercise was successful on several levels: 1) it proved SFOR is capable of projecting massive combat power throughout the region; 2) it proved many different nations could communicate and coordinate to direct and control this firepower; and, 3) it provided soldiers from these nations an opportunity to better understand each other and gain confidence in their ability to work as a single team..

New Zealand Flight Lieutenant Nead Crawford said, "It was a good multi-nation exercise that will help benefit operations in the future."

The exercise featured AH-64 Apache Helicopters firing the 33 mm machine gun, 2.75-inch rockets, and laser-guided Hellfire missiles. Plus a F-16 close air support demonstration called in by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Michael Kazimiroff and Staff Sgt. Shawn Leonared.

"The mission went great, the airplane got eyes on the target and the Apache had eyes on target," said Leonared.

"Eyes on target" is a term used to describe a helicopter or an airplane actually observing the target it is shooting at as opposed to relying on its instrumentation.

During the exercise the Apache helicopters fired 5,480-30 mm rounds; 174- 2.75 inch rockets and 16 hellfire missiles.

"I would have liked to see more ordnates dropped, but the overall objective was met," said Penasse Ircha, a Canadian bombardier.



# Performance



The live fire exercise served a multiple number of purposes.

Pilots become fully aware of what their weapons can do, they gained confidence in their equipment and confidence in each other, said Capt. Scott Nicholas, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment.

"After shooting a live fire exercise I would not want to be on the receiving end of one of these machines," said Nicholas.

For some of these pilots, it was the first time they were able to fire the missiles on a live-fire range.

Capt. Randall Stillinger, one of the pilots, said it also is very rare for pilots to shoot hellfire missiles.

Firing a round or a rocket is as easy as the push of a button for a pilot.

However the loading, accountability and unloading processes that go along with a live-fire exercise is a long process for munitions soldiers.

"Ammunitions is a lot of work, even after the pilots fire it, you're far from done," said Staff Sgt. Szydlo Randal of the regiment's headquarters company.



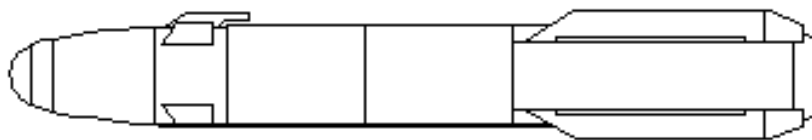
**As the morning fog begins to clear away, crew chiefs load rockets onto the wing of an Apache helicopter.**

Randal noted that all the fired ammunition has to be boxed back up to be turned in.

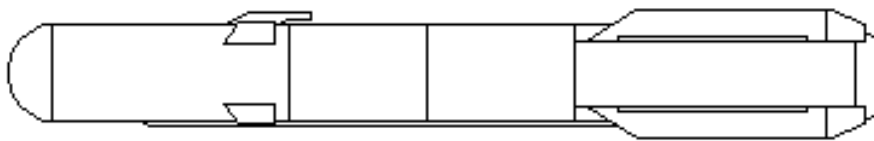
If there are any munitions that didn't fire due to malfunction a

seven-page report has to be filled out for each munition.

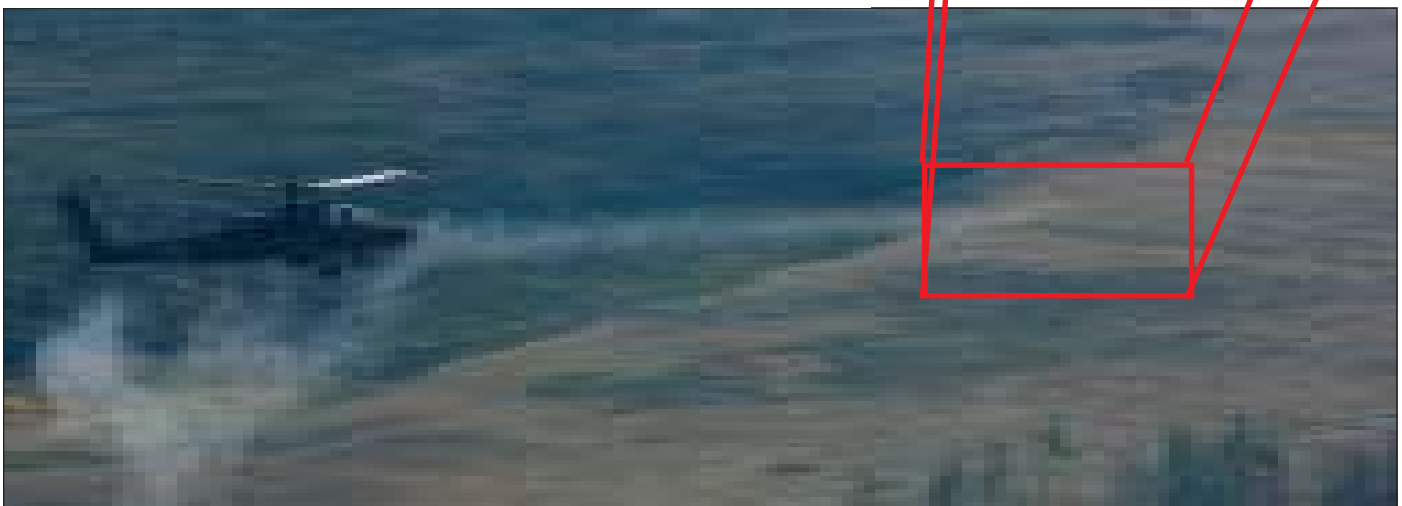
Every piece of ammo has to be accounted for. Safety is always a number one concern when live ammunition comes into play.



**AGM-114K Hellfire II**



**AGM-114L Longbow Hellfire**



**The 2.75-inch rockets brutally pepper targets down range.**



*In our sights*



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD

**Brig. Gen. Richard Nash, commander of the Multinational Brigade (North) assists Staff Sgt. Michelle Mendez with her baggage Sept. 13 as they arrived at Eagle Base in Bosnia and Herzegovina.**



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Clinton Wood, 135th MPAD

**Staff Sgt. Chris Cortazzo, 416th Civil Affairs Battalion, was pretty popular with the children at a MEDCAP near Janjari Saturday.**



Photos by Spc. Jeremiah Wickenhauser, 135th MPAD

**Above: Spc. Christopher Kimbrough, 1st Bn., 149th Avn. Regt., tries to explain that the road ahead is closed temporarily.**

**Right: An Italian soldier serenades Spcs. Crystal Olier and Mara Moreno of the 1st Bn., 149th Avn. Regt., with his guitar rifts and accent at Glamac range to celebrate the closing of Dynamic Response 2003.**

